

Request for Information (RFI) 200050711
for the U.S. House of Representatives
Web Site Translation Services

Due Date for Vendor Responses August 26, 2005

Request for Information on Current Technology

This is a request for information only. This is not a notice of Request for Proposal or Request for Quotation issuance nor is there a guarantee that either may result.

The purpose of this RFI is to gather information from commercial enterprises which provide human-based and/or machine-based foreign language translation services for English language Web sites. Initially, only English to Spanish translation services will be researched.

Background and Statistics

Members of the United States House of Representatives provide a Public Web site for their constituents, the media, and the rest of the world. Increasingly, there is interest in providing online content in languages other than English as many Representative's Congressional Districts contain large populations of foreign language speakers.

In order to effectively reach this large and growing audience, translation of the textual content is necessary. Many offices do not have bilingual staff, which necessitates hiring translation services for this task. The Library of Congress provides translation of documents for Government agencies, but not of Web site content.

A new report from the Census Bureau states that people of Hispanic origin accounted for half of the U.S. population growth from 2003 to 2004, and now constitute one-seventh of all people in the United States. The Bureau estimates that 41.3 million Hispanics now reside in the United States, and the trend is expected to continue due to high birth rates and immigration from Latin American countries.

Due to this rapidly growing Spanish speaking audience, many Congressional offices want to add Spanish content to their Web sites.

Respondents of interest to the House may be invited to demonstrate their system.

Specific Requirements Which Proposed Information Should Include

- Translation services may be either human-based, machine-based, or some combination of both.
- The capability to handle various dialects of the Spanish language must be addressed.
- Continuous and subsequent translations need to be available to Congressional offices on an on-going basis so that Spanish Web content can stay up-to-date in parallel with English content as it is added.
- Some offices may want whole Web sites translated, while others may want one page of content translated at a time. Therefore, a reasonable fee per unit of work should be established.
- Translation of English to Spanish content must be provided to offices in a timely manner and with the highest accuracy possible. In other words, a turn-around timeframe, or service level agreement, will need to be identified and specified for delivery of translated content, as well as level of accuracy. If you have established standard service levels, please include them.
- Content to be translated may exist in any of several formats such as: Word documents, images, text files, HTML pages, and audio/video files. Flexibility to translate from these various sources of content will be required.
- Outline of procedural process - Work flow for an office requesting translation services.
- List of peripherals that may need to be purchased by either HIR or the Member offices (if any) - Hardware and/or software.
- General plans for fee structure - For example: One time usage charges versus ongoing maintenance plans for repeat users.

PLEASE NOTE: This is an RFI ONLY!! Questions email james.tiani@mail.house.gov